Instructions for Python

1. Install one of the two commercial distros:
   a. Anaconda
   b. Enthought Canopy

   FWIW, I use Enthought and I ended up paying the $200 annual fee to get access to all the packages they make available. It was worth it.

2. Neither of these distros include everything you need in their package manager, so
   a. On the command line
      ```
      pip install <package>
      ```

   b. On Windows, go to http://www.lfd.uci.edu/~gohlke/pythonlibs/
      There may be similar sites for Ubuntu and OS X

3. Set up IPython and QTconsole. Once you've got them you will quickly be hooked, they are so much better than just plain old Python.

4. Starting IPython, IPython Notebooks and QTconsole require command-line commands. I strongly encourage you to use pylab, the commands for which, on a Windows 7 machine are:
   ```
   ipython --pylab
   ipython notebook --pylab=inline
   ipython qtconsole --pylab=inline
   ```

5. As for an editor
   a. Ananconda and Enthought both provide their own, which I dislike.
   b. There is a package called Spyder which allows variable inspection and is very nice
   c. but I just use Notebook++ with python plugins and QTconsole. Whatever.

6. <u>Sign on to Twitter</u>
   Edit `twitter_credentials.py` to include your own credentials

   ```
   from twitter_credentials import twitter_credentials
   token, token_secret, consumer_key, consumer_secret = twitter_credentials()

   import twitter
   auth = twitter.oauth.OAuth(consumer_key, consumer_secret, token, token_secret)
   twitter_api = twitter.Twitter(auth=auth)
   ```